

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:

a handle including a first side and a second side;

a blade configured to rotate about a pivot point between an open position and a closed position and having a tang with an inlet including a slot terminating in a receptacle, the blade being removably secured to the handle; and

a manually-releasable fastening device adapted to releasably engage the handle and the blade such that, while the fastening device is released, the blade is removable from the handle and the first side is separable from the second side.

9. (Original) The knife of claim 8, wherein said manually-releasable fastening device is disposed about the pivot point.

10. (Previously Presented) The knife of claim 8, wherein release of the fastening device enables rotation of the first side relative to the second side.

11. (Previously Presented) The knife of claim 8, wherein the fastening device includes a knob and a retention post.

12. (Original) The knife of claim 11, wherein the knob includes friction grips.

13. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 11, wherein the ~~blade has a tang including an inlet of the blade is~~ adapted to engage the retention post of the manually-releasable fastening device.

14. (Previously Presented) The knife of claim 13, wherein the retention post has a neck and a base, the base being sized to be engaged by the receptacle of the blade.

15. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 10, wherein the first side and the second side include a connector adapted to release the first side from the second side when the first side and the second side are in a rotated position.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:
a handle including a first side and a second side;
a blade having a tang with a slot terminating in a receptacle, the blade being removably secured to the handle and rotatable between an open and a closed position; and
a manually-releasable fastening device having:
a retaining element including a retention post, the retention post having a neck and a base, the base being sized to be engaged by the receptacle of the blade, and
a manipulable element having a knob and being adjustably attached to the retaining element and adapted to releasably engage the handle ~~and the blade~~, such that adjustment of the manipulable element relative to the retaining element enables removal of the blade from the handle and separation of the first side from the second side.

20. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:
a handle having first and second sides;

a retention post extending between the first and second sides of the handle at a first end thereof the first side of the handle being configured to be disengageable from the retention post, and rotatable, with respect to the second side of the handle, about a first axis located at a second end of the handle, between an engaged position, in which the first side is engaged with the retention post, and a disengaged position, in which the first side is disengaged from the retention post; and

a removable blade having a tang that includes an inlet with a slot configured to engage the retention post, the blade configured to rotate, relative to the handle, about a second axis parallel to the first axis and defined by the retention post.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The knife of claim ~~21~~20 wherein:

the blade comprises a receptacle at an end of the slot and having a width greater than a width of the slot;

the retention post comprises a neck having a diameter smaller than the width of the slot and a base having a diameter greater than the width of the slot and smaller than the width of the receptacle; and

the receptacle of the blade is configured to engage the base of the retention post.

23. (Currently amended) The knife of claim 22 wherein, while the first side of the handle is disengaged from the retention post and rotated to the disengaged position, the receptacle of the blade ~~may~~can be moved between engaged with, and disengaged from, the base of the retention post, and, while the first side of the handle is rotated to the engaged position and engaged with the retention post, the receptacle of the blade cannot be moved between engaged with, and disengaged from, the retention post.

24. (Previously Presented) The knife of claim 21 wherein, while the first side of the handle is disengaged from the retention post and rotated to the disengaged position, the first side of the handle may be disengaged from the second side of the handle.

25. (Previously Presented) The knife of claim 20, further comprising a knob coupled to the retention post and rotatable between a locked and an unlocked position, and configured such that, while the knob is in the locked position and the first side of the handle is engaged with the retention post, the first side of the handle cannot be disengaged from the retention post or rotated away from the engaged position.

26. (Previously Presented) The knife of claim 20, further comprising a knob coupled to the retention post and rotatable between a locked and an unlocked position, and configured such that the knob must be rotated away from the locked position in order to remove the blade from the handle.